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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/078,469	05/14/1998	YASUSHI TAKAHASHI	450100-4487	7293

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, SON P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	5

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/078,469	TAKAHASHI ET AL. <i>[Signature]</i>
Examiner	Art Unit	
Son P Huynh	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 1998.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4-6 and 10-12 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "1" (page 6, line 14); "step SP3" (page 23, line 12 and page 41, line 9).

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: SP13 (fig. 19).

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application

by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1 – 3 and 7 – 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Herz (US 6,088,722).

Regarding claim 1, Herz discloses a method for accessing to video programs and other data using customer profiles comprising the steps of:

forming a specific user's own specific user model based on the general user selection taste data consisting of classification items and information contents on the basis of the general user group classified according to an user attributer and/ or the state of information utilization, and based on the basis information selection taste data of the specific user (see col. 14, lines 1- 49);

registering specific user model formed for each plural users so as to correspond to respective user;

retrieving the information suiting one or plural specific user model (s) based on the one or plural specific user model (s) among the plurality of specific user models (col. 25, line 45 – col. 27, line 38; col. 48, lines 18-25 and col. 52, line 40 – col. 53, line 30).

Regarding claim 2, Herz discloses the retrieval method as discussed in the rejection of claim 1 further comprising the steps of forming a group user model on the basis of the plurality of specific user models and retrieving the information based on the group user model (see col. 35, line 5 – col. 36, line 23 and col. 38, line 65 – col. 41, line 5).

Regarding claim 3, Herz discloses the methods as discussed in the rejection of claim 2 further comprising the steps of storing the group user model set-top multimedia terminal (see col. 26, lines 2-5 and col. 48, line 18-25).

Regarding claims 7-9, the apparatus elements being claimed correspond to the method elements of claims 1-3 and analyzed as discussed with respect to claims 1-3.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4-6 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record fails to show or fairly suggest the method of apparatus of forming the group user model is a maximum value mode or minimum value mode or

average value mode for selecting the maximum value, minimum value, average value, respectively, of the plurality of specific user models.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hendricks et al. (US 5,990,927) discloses a advanced set top terminal for cable television system that can forming a specific user's own specific model based on the general user selection taste data; registering the specific used model formed for each plural user and retrieving the information suiting one or plural specific user model (s) based on the one or plural specific user model (s) (see col. 34, line 34 – col. 35, line 10).

Barret et al. (US 6,005,597) discloses a method and apparatus for program selection.

Masahiro et al. (JP408077184A) discloses a device and method for retrieving database.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son P Huynh whose telephone number is 703-305-1889. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

Son P. Huynh
February 22, 2002



Bhavesh Mehta
Primary Examiner